

Grant Report
USDA Block Grant on Specialty Crops and Promotion of Agriculture
Grant Number: USDA -123

Grant Period: July 2002 – August 2003

Name of Project: **Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program**

Project Synopsis:

The Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program provides an intense 12-seminar schedule held over a two-year period of time to provide leadership development training. The participants are individuals who are involved in an agriculture and related industry career. Individuals were selected through an extensive application and interview process. They attend the 12 seminars (representing 60 days) held throughout Indiana, Washington DC and a foreign country. The training received improves their leadership capacities, builds their confidence, and increases their knowledge and perspectives of domestic and international affairs. The goal of the program is that these individuals will be a part of a network of highly trained, skilled and motivated leaders who assume policy decision-making roles in agriculture and related industries at the local, state, national and international levels and serve to educate the public on behalf of the industry.

Project Strategy and Timelines:

The following seminar schedule is in place for the current ALP Class 10 complete with seminar objectives. Each seminar is evaluated by the participants at the close of the seminar. Upon completion of the two-year program, the participants and their respective employers will provide feedback regarding the immediate impact of the program. Follow-up study and evaluation is conducted five years later to evaluate a longer-term impact.

CLASS X SEMINAR DATES AND OBJECTIVES

SEMINAR 1 July 12-14, 2002 St. Meinrad

- Set program expectations, clarify responsibilities, and provide planning time for class assignments.
- Gain understanding of self in terms of personality style, goals, values, mission, and gifts and talents.
- Introduce journaling.
- Class 9 members become acquainted and begin to build the “class learning community.”
- Provide introduction to the study of leadership.

Assignments: Introduction Speech

SEMINAR 2 September 5-7, 2002 Bloomington

- Tour/receive information about a project/business venture that adds value to an agricultural product or provides an alternative production strategy
- Develop and refine public speaking skills for more effective communication
- Understand Six Thinking Hats process as tool for problem solving and effective critical thinking process.
- Develop understanding of and practice the use of effective facilitation skills

Assignment: Prepared Speech

SEMINAR 3 January 16-18, 2003 West Lafayette

- Gain understanding and perspectives on the macro and micro environment of agriculture
- Gain insight of the changing and transforming agricultural industry.
- Develop skills in issue management through understanding of how issues reach public discourse and judgment.

- Develop class member's skills in developing and implementing meaningful programs.
- Understand role and function of land grant universities and become familiar with Purdue University
- Gain information about various research endeavors for new agriculture product/technology

Assignments: Conduct a half-day session on Ag. Policy

SEMINAR 4 January 16-18, 2003 Indianapolis

- Broaden understanding of the three branches of State Government and state agencies.
- To learn priorities and functions of various state agencies and become familiar with those running the offices.
- Gain understanding and skills in processes influencing government and policy formation, especially as it relates to agriculture.
- Gain understanding of the election process and political parties.
- Hear views and perspectives of political leadership.
- Develop class member's skills in developing and implementing meaningful programs

Assignment: Conduct half-day session on Lobbying/Influencing legislative process

Meet with respective Legislative Member

Participate in Legislative Study Discussion

Conduct a Mock Committee Hearing

SEMINAR 5 February 22-March 1, 2003 Washington DC

- Become familiar with Branches of Federal Government and its respective agencies.
- Develop understanding of how public policy is formed at the federal level and how to impact the process.
- To complete the Federal Government Study Project.
- To observe and to develop contact with individuals in leadership at the Federal Government level.

Assignments: Federal Government Study Group Presentations

Federal Government Study Group Appointments

SEMINAR 6 April 2-5, 2003 Bryant

- Review the information learning and experiences of Washington DC and develop strategies on how to use the information as leaders in the industry.
- Tour/receive information about a project/business venture that adds value to an agricultural product or provides an alternative production strategy.
- Develop and refine skills in visioning, strategic planning and conflict management.
- Develop class member's skills in developing and implementing meaningful programs
- Understand current agribusiness strategies in relationship to industry trends
- Assess personal leadership capacities

Assignments: Federal Government Study Group Final Reports

Personal Leadership Assessment

Conduct half-day session to compare/contrast the business strategies in agriculture and agribusiness

SEMINAR 7 July 11-13, 2003 Kendallville

- Tour/receive information about a project/business venture that adds value to an agricultural product or provides an alternative production strategy.
- Practice skills in debate and discussion of contentious issues.
- Develop and defend views on a contemporary leadership theme.
- Gain understanding of local economic and community development and agriculture's relationship at the local level.
- Gain understanding of differences and similarities of urban and rural communities
- Develop class member's skills in developing and implementing meaningful programs

Assignments: conduct a debate/discussion meet

Leadership White Paper Presentation/Discussion

Half-day session led by small group to compare/contrast rural and urban communities

SEMINAR 8 September 4-6, 2003 New Harmony

- Tour/receive information about a project/business venture that adds value to an agricultural product or provides an alternative production strategy.
- Gain understanding of how Indiana demographic trends affect quality of life issues, economy, education, socio-economic issues, ethnic/cultural issues, etc.
- Gain understanding of role of social service providers and the complex environment that impacts effectiveness.
- Gain understanding of the complex issues involved in the poverty cycle.
- Develop and refine written communication skills
- Gain understanding of how agriculture is affected by and effects social trends and issues.
- Develop class member's skills in developing and implementing meaningful programs

Assignments: Half-day session led by small group regarding the state of Indiana's economic, demographic, quality of life affairs

Social Services study completed

Social Service study group discussion

SEMINAR 9 November 20-22, 2003 Terre Haute

- Tour/receive information about a project/business venture that adds value to an agricultural product or provides an alternative production strategy.
- Develop class member's skills in developing and implementing meaningful programs
- Understanding the social and economic impact of crime.
- Compare and contrast public vs. private correctional institutions effect on crime and corrections.
- Expand skills and understanding in developing effective media relations.

Assignments: class debate/discussion

Half-day session led by small group on the social and economic impact of crime.

SEMINAR 10 January 15-17, 2004 Hammond

- Tour/receive information about a project/business venture that adds value to an agricultural product or provides an alternative production strategy.
- Develop skills for serving as effective board members
- Prepare for the foreign study travel seminar.
- Understand the role and trends of volunteerism and the impact on community
- Understand the impact of the Chicago Board of Trade on the agricultural commodity marketplace.
- Develop class member's skills in developing and implementing meaningful programs

Assignments: foreign travel study reports

Local government study completed

Local government study discussion

Half-day session led by small group on the topic of volunteerism

SEMINAR 11 February 21-March 6, 2004 South Africa

- Understand economic, cultural, political, social similarities and differences of respective country.
- Tour and learn about the agricultural industry of the country.
- Understand the impact of the country with respect to economic power and trade.
- Acquire an appreciation for the intrinsic qualities and cultural diversity of the country.

SEMINAR 12 April 15-17, 2004 Indianapolis

- Present "Making a Difference" project reports.
- Recap and evaluate the ALP Experience.
- Assess personal development of leadership capacities.
- Study the role of philanthropy and grant writing with respect to the non-profit side of agriculture and rural communities.
- Celebrate the successful completion of the ALP Class 10

Project Participants: The following participants are involved in Class 10 of the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program. A brochure providing more details of the participants' background and experience is included in the attached documents.

**Indiana Agricultural Leadership Institute
Class 10**

Dr. Todd Applegate

Business: Asst. Professor, Poultry
Extension Specialist
Purdue University

Ms. Janice Bacon

Morgan County Commissioners Office

Ms. Rebecca Carroll

Business: Chief Financial Officer
Countrymark Cooperative

Ms. Wendy Dant Chesser

Business: Director
Indiana Department of Commerce

Mr. Duane Davis

Business: Owner/Operator
Doubletree Swine

Ms. Janelle Deatsman

Business: Communication Specialists
Maple Leaf Farms

Mr. Willard Everhart III (Chips)

Business: Environmental Quality Control
Rose Acre Farms

Mr. Jerry Fankhauser, Jr.

Business: Mgr. Research Farms
Purdue University School of Ag.

Mr. Chris Fenner

Business: Field Representative
Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.

Mr. Jeffrey Gaither

Business: Area Supervisor
Perdue Farms, Inc.

Mr. Jack Haefling

Business: President
Indiana Horse Council, Inc.

Ms. Anne Hazlett

Business: Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives

David Hermes

Business: Midwest Regional Veterinary
Mgr.
Perdue Farms, Inc.

Mr. Thomas Knollman

Business: Knollman Farms

Dr. Michael Kopp

Business: Dir., Avian Health Division
Indiana State Board of Animal Health

Ms. Julie Lester

Business: Graduate Instructor
Purdue Dept. of Political Science – LAEB

Mr. Matthew Mace

Business: Crops Specialist
Grower's Cooperative

Mr. William Malle

Business: Malle Farms

Mr. Todd Masten

Business: Energy Division Mgr.
Midland Coop

Ms. Michele Payn-Knoper

Business: Owner
MPK Enterprises

Ms. Barbara Robertson

Business: Director, Career Development
Saint Joseph's College

Mr. Scott Sheets

Business: Sheets Farms

Mr. Chris Wooley

Business: Product Marketing Manager
Dow AgroSciences

Mr. Christopher Zollman

Business: Farm Loan Officer
USDA Farm Service Agency

Final Report:

During this grant project period, six seminars have been successfully conducted. Copies of the seminar agendas and evaluations have been attached to document the project activity.

The curriculum of the Agricultural Leadership Program is designed to strengthen a number of leadership skill areas, to provide knowledge and understanding of a wide range of public policy issues, and to broaden the class members understanding of the depth and diversity of Indiana's agricultural and allied industries. To accomplish this, a segment of nearly every seminar agenda provides the class members an opportunity to learn about a value-added aspect of agriculture or to learn about new product/technology development. In addition, the agenda provides opportunity for the class members to apply specific skills or information directly to the agricultural industry.

The six seminars held during this grant project period provided the class members the opportunity to study the wine/grape industry, agri-tourism and the work being done in the area of nanotechnology at Purdue. In addition, they have gained skills in the areas of communication, decision-making, conflict resolution, political involvement, lobbying, visioning, strategic planning and facilitation. Designed to increase the class members ability to impact legislative and rules decision making, the class members have improved their ability and understanding of state and federal government operations and influencing government affairs at all levels. Their seminar study has also improved their understanding of macro and micro issues that impact agricultural trade and policy.

Partnerships/Alliances/Networks

An important aspect of the program is the strong relationships held with the various public and private entities, organizations, and institutions that make up the Indiana Agricultural Community. The relationships help us to provide quality speakers/facilitators/experts to the ALP curriculum, help to expand the important network of the ALP participants and to increase awareness of the ALP throughout the industry community.

During this project period, the following entities have been directly involved in the ALP seminars, donating their expertise and time.

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture	Indiana Farmers Union
Purdue University	Indiana Agribusiness Assoc.
Indiana Statewide Assoc. of Rural Electric Co.	Indiana Board of Animal Health
Elanco Animal Health	Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Tyler and Associates	US Grains Council
Oliver Winery	USDA
Indiana University Center for Global Change	National Farmer's Union
Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.	EPA
State of Indiana	US House Ag. Committee Staff
USDA/Rural Development	American Farmland Trust
Sommer Barnard Ackerson, P.C.	Senator Bayh's Office
Bose McKinney and Evans	Senator Lugar's Office
Indiana State Poultry Assoc.	
Center for Economic and Community Dev., Ball State University	

Attached are documents to support the work accomplished during the respective seminar and the budget expenditures to date.

Should additional information be needed, we look forward to providing that information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Archer
Executive Director